

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253553

EXDIS

FOR ENDERS

FOL OSLO 5078 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS NOV 16,

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5078

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN ECG

REF: OSLO 5040

1. AT REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINSTER FRYDENLUND,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE
PHONED DCM AFTER WORK ON NOVEMBER 14 TO REPORT
FRYDENLUND HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN THAT DAY FROM OTHER (BY IMPLICATION HIGH)
OFFICIALS REGARDING INDICATION IN BINDER NY TIMES
ARTICLE (REFTEL) THAT US WAS OPPOSED TO GRANTING
NORWAY ANY FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATUS WITHIN ENERGY
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COORDINATING GROUP (ECG). OFFICIALS WERE DESCRIBED

AS EXPRESSING RESENTMENT OF U.S. PRESSURE.

2. AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ON NOV. 15, FRYDENLUND JOINED VIBE FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF ECG ISSUE WITH DCM. GROUP WAS LATER JOINED BY UK AMBASSADOR SELBY. FRYDENLUND AGAIN EXPLAINED WHY, EVEN IF GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE PUSHED FULL ECG MEMBERSHIP THROUGH STARTING WITH 10-15 VOTE MARGIN, VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN PYRRHIC ONE, GIVING OPPONENTS OF ECG MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY THEY SEEK TO EXTEND DEBATE TO NATO MEMBERSHIP. HE INSISTED THAT "BAD CONSCIENCE" OF CENTER AND CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTIES ABOUT NOT ENTERING ECG WOULD PERMIT NORWAY TO JOIN ON TERMS CLOSE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. IT WOULD NOT BE IN US OR UK'S INTEREST TO FORCE A DIVISIVE DEBATE ON FULL MEMBERSHIP NOW WHEN NORWAY MIGHT WELL MOVE FROM ASSOCIATE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN A FEW YEARS.

3. DESCRIBING POSSIBLE TERMS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, FRYDENLUND SAID NORWAY WOULD PLEDGE (A) TO CUT BACK CONSUMPTION BY AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO MORE THAN WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AS FULL MEMBER; (B) TO CONTINUE ITS OIL EXPORTS TO WESTERN EUROPE WHERE 90 PERCENT OF OIL EXPORTS WOULD NORMALLY GO; AND (C) INCREASE DELIVERIES IF NECESSARY. FRYDENLUND SIDESTEPED QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE COMMITMENT OF A SPECIFIC VOLUME OF DELIVERIES, AND VIBE LATER SAID HE DOUBTED GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO CITE A SPECIFIC FIGURE, BUT AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE CLEAR FACT THAT NORWAY WOULD COME TO WEST'S AID IN ANY CRISIS.

4. FRYDENLUND ASKED BLUNTLY WHETHER US AND UK WOULD AGREE TO CONSIDER SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATUS. HE SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE ASKED THIS QUESTION IN DEBATE ON NOVEMBER 19, HE WAS WORKING ON HIS REMARKS OVER THIS WEEKEND, AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY US AND UK COULD NOT OPPOSE ASSOCIATE STATUS. HE THEN REFERRED TO INDICATIONS

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NORWAY HAD RECEIVED EARLIER FROM US IN WASHINGTON THAT SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATUS WOULD AT LEAST BE CONSIDERED, AND NOT ENTIRELY JOKING, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD NOT TURN HIS BACK ON AN OLD PUPIL. UK AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT THE REACTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR NORWAY WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS MIND ON FULL MEMBERSHIP--

A POSSIBILITY WHICH FRYDENLUND REITERATED WAS
OUT OF THE QUESTION.

5. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE WISHES FROM US
AND UK, FRYDENLUND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD SUPPORT
PROPOSAL AT ECG MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18 THAT
DAVIGNON BE FORMALLY ENPOWERED TO DISCUSS WITH
NORWAY POSSIBLE TERMS OF ASSOCIATION WITH ECG.
HE ASKED DCM SEVERAL TIMES WHETHER HE THOUGHT
EMBASSY WOULD RECEIVE SOME GUIDANCE FROM
DEPARTMENT BEFORE HIS SPEECH ON TUESDAY. IT WAS
OBVIOUS HE FEELS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND IS
AWEATING OUT THE VERDICT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM
FRYDENLUND BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT THE LATEST
WHETHER OR NOT U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER
ASSOCIATE STATUS FOR NORWAY IN ECG. BYRNE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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